

removed the offending stump of tooth. The result was that the tumor which, on account of its indurated border, its rapid growth during the last three weeks, its painfulness, etc., presented the clinical picture of carcinoma, spontaneously disappeared. The excised portion showed the typical structure of carcinoma. The value of this observation revolves about the question, Can we always depend upon the microscopic picture for the diagnosis of carcinoma? This question will receive different answers depending on whether we view it from a clinical or histological stand-point.

Since the time of Waldeyer we have been accustomed to define carcinoma as an atypical epithelial development. It would be at least a great error to designate every atypical epithelial development as carcinoma. The definition of Carl Friedländer must be accepted as the best. He assumes that an atypical epithelial development can be called carcinoma only when the epithelial development involves not only the newly-formed tumor-tissue, but also extends over into the pre-existing tissue.

In both cases studied by Senger, the demands of Friedländer's definition were fulfilled. The epithelial growth had extended into the muscle, and infiltrated the entire mucous membrane. It certainly does not seem right, however, to diagnose as carcinoma a tumor which has subsided after the removal of the irritating cause.

Senger does not claim that cancer can heal spontaneously; he simply asks the question as to whether the diagnosis of carcinoma shall be made upon histological or clinical grounds. In the latter case the spontaneous healing of carcinoma is out of the question; in the first case it is possible. At the present time we are inclined to view the subject from the clinical stand-point.—*Verhandlungen der deutschen Gesellschaft für Chirurgie*, XXIII Kongress, 1894.

VI. The Employment of Blood-Serum in Surgery.

By Dr. SCHLEICH (Berlin). Schleich has reported his experiences in the use of blood-serum in treatment of wounds and skin-diseases. Fresh bovine blood-serum was used, mixed with 25 per cent. of zinc

oxide. The mixture was spread upon glass plates, allowed to dry, and then reduced to powder. From this powder two sorts of preparations were made :

(1) The serum paste, which is soluble in water, non-irritating, free from acid, can be used as an organic covering for eczema, burns, ulcers, etc. It adheres and becomes dry in a few minutes, but can be easily washed off, and forms practically the most non-irritating vehicle, and imitates exactly the natural scab. The preparation can be sterilized at 70° C.

When heated above 100° C. there results,—

(2) The pulvis serosa, which can be used pure or mixed with iodoform, and which dries quickly and forms a scab. Schleich accomplishes hereby the formation of a moist blood-scab for which Schede strove.

(3) Wounds which were not absolutely clean are treated first with nuclein serum powder.

Nuclein, the substance of the cell nuclei, is not only a strong chemical compound, but also has the power, in 2 to 3 per cent. combination with serum powder, of eliminating the necrotic and broken-down tissue from the wound by a sort of digestive process, without doing the slightest damage to the healthy tissue. It clears away very quickly shreds of fibrin, broken-down connective tissue, bits of fascia, etc., and creates a perfectly clean wound.

(4) Mercurial serum. This is a mercurial paste which is used dried and in the place of the greasy inunctions in the treatment of syphilis. Three to five grammes of the paste are smoothly applied with a brush upon the skin, into which the inunctions have been made, and allowed to dry. Three days later the mercury paste is removed in the bath.

These preparations, the pasta serosa, the pulvis serosa (cum iodoform, cum nuclein), the pasta serosa cum hydrargyrum are manufactured in Berlin.—*Verhandlungen der deutschen Gesellschaft für Chirurgie*, XXIII Kongress, 1894.